

The following is a complete listing of all claims in the application, with an indication of the status of each:

Listing of claims:

1 1 (Currently amended). An audio playback/recording apparatus comprising:
2 an audio input processing section, which receives analog audio data,
3 and converts said analog audio data to digital audio data;
4 a plurality of decompression firmwares stored in ROM;
5 a playback/recording processing section having a compression section
6 which compresses said digital audio data and stores into a RAM said
7 compressed digital audio data and attribution data indicating a type of a
8 compression of said compressed digital audio data, and having an expansion
9 section which decompresses compressed digital audio data stored in said
10 RAM by using a decompression firmware selected from among said plurality
11 of decompression firmwares based on the attribution data;
12 an audio output processing section, which receives decompressed
13 digital audio data, converts said decompressed digital audio data to analog
14 audio data, and outputs said analog audio data to an output apparatus; and
15 an external recording circuit section, which records compressed digital
16 audio data into an external recording medium, and reads out compressed
17 digital audio data from said external recording medium, and stores said
18 readout data into said RAM.

1 2 (Previously presented). An audio playback/recording apparatus according to
2 claim 1, further comprising a general-purpose interface circuit section, which
3 transfers digital audio data and attribution data to an external apparatus from
4 said external recording medium, and which receives digital audio data from

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5 said external apparatus and transfers digital audio data and attribution data to
6 said external recording medium.

1 3 (Original). An audio playback/recording apparatus according to claim 1,
2 further comprising a protection processing section for performing protection
3 processing of said digital audio data.

1 4 (Previously presented). An audio playback/recording apparatus according to
2 claim 3, wherein said protection processing section comprises:
3 a) an encryption section which encrypts said digital audio data,
4 b) a decryption section which decrypts encrypted digital audio data,
5 c) an authorization data generation section, which generates authorization
6 data sent to said external apparatus, and
7 d) an authorization data verification section, which verifies authorization data
8 sent from said external apparatus.

1 5 (Previously presented). An audio playback/recording apparatus according to
2 claim 3, wherein said protection processing section comprises:
3 a) an encryption section which encrypts digital audio data,
4 b) a decryption section which decrypts encrypted digital audio data,
5 c) an authorization data writing section which writes authorization data into
6 digital audio data transferred to said external apparatus, and
7 d) an authorization data extraction section which extracts authorization data
8 from digital audio data received from said external apparatus.

1 6 (Original). An audio playback/recording apparatus according to claim 5,
2 wherein said authorization data writing section writes said authorization data
3 within a header information section of said digital audio data.

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- 1 7 (new). An audio playback/recording apparatus according to claim 1, further
- 2 comprising a plurality of compression firmwares stored in ROM, and wherein
- 3 the playback/recording processing section uses compression firmware selected
- 4 from among said plurality of compression firmwares.